



STAGE NATION

WHERE PERFORMANCE DREAMS COME TRUE



TEACHER APPLICATION PACK

Welcome

Dear Teacher,

We're thrilled to invite you and your students to take part in Stage Nation's premiere production of ***The Debut*** — a celebratory dance extravaganza taking place at the prestigious Richmond Theatre on Sunday 5 July 2026.

This is more than just a show — it's a chance for your dancers to shine on a professional stage, be part of a high-calibre creative process and make lifelong memories.

This pack contains everything you need to apply: how to register, what we're looking for, key dates, responsibilities if selected, and more.

We can't wait to see your creativity in action. If you have any questions, we're just an email or call away.

With warm wishes,

Samantha Lindsay
Founder & Principal, Stage Nation

WHO WE ARE

At Stage Nation, we believe every young performer deserves a moment in the spotlight. Founded by dance educator and creative producer Samantha Lindsay, Stage Nation creates magical, high-quality stage experiences for students of all ages — bringing together passionate schools and studios from across the country for one-of-a-kind theatre showcases.

Whether your dancers are stepping on stage for the first time or have years of training behind them, our productions offer an empowering, professionally run platform where talent, joy, and creativity take centre stage.

With a growing national network of schools, a focus on excellence without exclusivity, and unforgettable venues like Richmond Theatre, Stage Nation is raising the bar for what school performances can be.



WHY TAKE PART?

- Opportunity to perform at the prestigious Grade II-listed Richmond Theatre, a 840-seat professional venue in south-west London
- Be part of a professionally produced production, hosted by a compere, with a cohesive programme
- Q&A with a guest industry professional
- Scholarship awards available for standout students
- Professional feedback provided to each school from an industry judge
- Performer pack of branded merchandise - T-shirt, tote bag and wristband
- Gain access to professional performance photography and video
- Boost your school's profile through association with a high-quality, national platform
- Experience a well-organised, uplifting day with full teacher and performer support.

OVERVIEW

Date: Sunday 5 July 2026 6.30pm

Venue: Richmond Theatre, 1 Little Green, Richmond TW9 1QJ

The Debut 2026 will be made up of two acts, featuring performers from dance schools across the UK, and will be hosted by a compere.

Each participating school will perform up to two routines (one in each act) plus the finale. Each dancer will experience a full day of rehearsals and showtime in a professional theatre, and receive a Stage Nation performer pack to include a T-shirt, tote bag and wristband. The event embodies everything Stage Nation stands for: creativity, quality, inclusivity and empowerment.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We are looking for a number of pieces of original choreography across varying styles and ages for solo, duet, trio and group performances (max 30) from ages 5 to adult, in the following styles:

Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Contemporary, Tap, Street Dance, Hip Hop, Latin, Ballroom, Acro, Lyrical, Musical Theatre, Bollywood, Fusion, Other



SELECTION CRITERIA

- Technique: precision, control, posture, alignment, balance, clean lines and versatility
- Musicality: connection to rhythm, phrasing, mood and musical interpretation
- Performance: stage presence, confidence, storytelling, energy and audience connection
- Choreography: creativity, originality, spatial use, structure and cohesion with music and theme

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Participating teachers must be registered with a recognised dance school/academy and demonstrate relevant teaching experience.

Teachers may enter more than one piece under multiple categories but must adhere to time limits:

- Solos: max 2 minutes
- Duets/Trios: max 3 minutes
- Groups (max 30 students): max 5 minutes

Video files must be submitted by the deadline stated and clearly labeled with the name of the dance school. Recommended file format: MP4 or MOV

Teachers are responsible for ensuring routines are using original choreography and are age-appropriate.

If cast, teachers will be responsible for rehearsing their students at their own studios to a performance-ready standard before the date of the event.





HOW TO APPLY

To apply to take part, please visit **www.stagenation.co.uk** where you will find the application form and link to upload your video.

APPLY AT
WWW.STAGENATION.CO.UK

Please complete the application form with details of the piece you are intending to put forward to feature in the production.

However the video does not have to feature the same piece that you are intending to put forward to feature in the production - it can simply be something you're currently working on that demonstrates your unique style and ability.

The music can be different and the dancers do not have to be in costume; at this stage we just want to get a clear sense of your movement quality, performance level and individual style so we can aim to place you appropriately within the show. However, if you do have your actual piece ready to go, then that gives us an even better idea to help us put together a varied programme.

If your application is successful, you will receive an information pack containing all the details you need to know for taking part and preparing your piece for the show. We will also provide you with a show pack for you to pass on to the parents of your students.

The deadline for submitting your application is **27 February 2026**. We aim to let you know the outcome no later than 14 days after your application.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Throughout Spring 2026, we will be reaching out to participating schools to see how they are getting on with preparing their piece for the production. If schools need further support, we can assist with creative direction and choreography guidance to help bring their ideas to life.

We may also request video material or other assets. This will help us create a creative introduction to each group, get a sense of how rehearsals are progressing and capture some behind-the-scenes photography and video content for social media to help build excitement for the show.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES IF CAST

- Submit all required information accurately and on time
- Collect performer fees from each participant on behalf of Stage Nation
- Rehearse dancers at their own venue to a performance-ready standard
- Ensure student safety, including warm-up and backstage supervision
- Collect signed parental consent forms for under-18s
- Accompany students on the day of the event
- Communicate all details to students and parents in advance using the provided show pack
- Support a spirit of respect, inclusion and sportsmanship throughout.

SAFEGUARDING AND CONSENT

By participating, you consent to:

- Collecting signed parental consent forms for all performers under 18
- Notifying the organisers of any relevant medical conditions
- Allowing Stage Nation to capture event photography and video for promotional use (opt-out available by request).

TICKETS

Tickets for the performance will be available to purchase through ATG Tickets and the Richmond Theatre Box Office. Details will be communicated nearer the time.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

Registration fee deadline: within 14 days of confirmation of place

Performer fee deadline: 20 March 2026 (with 50% paid by 27 February 2026)

Technical/Dress Rehearsal at the theatre and Performance: Sunday 5 July 2026

PAYMENT & REFUND POLICY

REGISTRATION FEE

Once a school has applied and been notified that they are successful, a non-refundable registration fee of £100 is required within 14 days of confirmation to secure their place.

This fee guarantees the school's performance slot and covers initial administrative and production planning costs, marketing and creative support, as well as a performers' pack consisting of a T-shirt, tote bag and wristband.

PERFORMER FEES

An £85 performer fee will be required from each participant. Teachers are responsible for collecting all participant fees from their students by the required date. Stage Nation will invoice the teacher for the total amount, according to the number of performers in their group.

Stage Nation offers a staged payment plan and teachers may request a bespoke payment plan for their group, which will be agreed upon in writing.

- 50% of total performer fees must be paid by **27 February 2026**.
- The remaining balance must be paid in full by **20 March 2026** (unless otherwise agreed in writing).



REFUNDS & CANCELLATIONS

- The £100 registration fee is strictly non-refundable under any circumstances.
- Performer fees are non-refundable after 20 March 2026, as theatre bookings, T-shirts and other production expenses are committed at this point.
- If a performer drops out before 20 March, a partial refund or credit may be considered on a case-by-case basis, minus any unrecoverable costs. After 20 March, no refunds will be issued, regardless of circumstances.

CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS BY US

In the unlikely event that Stage Nation must cancel or significantly reschedule the event, all fees (excluding the registration fee) will be refunded or credited toward a future event.

FAQS

General Overview

Q: What is Stage Nation?

Stage Nation is a performance company that gives dance schools the opportunity to perform in professional theatres across the UK. Each event brings together multiple schools for a high-quality, fully produced performance experience.

Q: Who can take part?

Any student enrolled in a participating dance school. The dancers, ages and groupings are decided by the school and confirmed with Stage Nation.

Q: What is the benefit for schools and students?

Students experience the thrill of performing on a professional stage, while schools gain exposure, performance footage, and a professionally managed event — without the stress of theatre logistics.

Event & Performance Details

Q: How long is the show day?

Typically, students arrive in the morning or early afternoon for rehearsals, with the performance(s) taking place later in the day. Exact timings are confirmed closer to the event and depend on the theatre schedule.

Q: How many routines will each group perform?

Each school generally performs two routines per group, plus a finale piece. The finale choreography and music will be provided by Stage Nation, along with finale costumes.

Q: What about our costumes?

It is up to each dance school to provide all of their own costumes for the event, apart from the finale T-shirt, which is supplied by Stage Nation.

Q: Do students need to attend additional rehearsals?

That's completely up to each school and how they curate their preparation. Stage Nation doesn't require any additional rehearsals beyond what the school chooses to organise.

Fees & Payments

Q: What does the performer fee include?

The performer fee includes:

- Up to two routines per school
- Professionally printed finale T-shirt
- Stage Nation tote bag
- Silicone wristband
- Performer pass
- Theatre and technical production costs
- Staffing and administration
- Q&A with guest industry professional
- A full, immersive day at the theatre (around 8 hours of rehearsals, stage time and performance — incredible value for the experience provided!)

Costumes & Appearance

Q: Who decides the costumes?

Each school selects and manages their own costumes for their routines. Stage Nation provides the finale T-shirt and choreography to ensure a unified closing performance.

Q: Can students wear makeup?

Yes, light stage makeup is encouraged so facial expressions are visible under theatre lighting.

Q: What about hair and accessories?

Each school sets its own requirements (e.g. slick ponytail, bun, etc.), which will be included in the show information pack closer to the event.

Parents & Audience

Q: How many tickets can be purchased?

Each performer must purchase a minimum of two tickets. Tickets are sold directly by the theatre box office (online or by phone) to ensure professional seating and audience management. Schools will receive a link to share with parents when sales open.

Q: Are photos or videos allowed?

Personal filming or photography during the show is not permitted, to protect child safeguarding and preserve the professional quality of the performance. There will be a professional photographer and videographer present who will be capturing the performance.

Logistics & Communication

Q: What happens on the day of the show?

A detailed schedule — including arrival, rehearsal, performance and collection times — will be sent to schools at least two weeks before the event.

Q: Who should teachers contact with questions?

Each event has a dedicated Stage Nation Show Coordinator, who will be your main contact for all communication and logistics.

After the Show

Q: Will students receive photos or videos?

Professional photos will be available to purchase at the event and printed on-site due to high demand. A digital download of the full show recording will be sent to schools after post-production editing.

Q: Will schools receive any marketing materials?

Yes — every participating school will receive branded graphics and social media assets to celebrate and share their Stage Nation experience online.

CONTACT DETAILS

For any questions, please contact:

Email: info@stagenation.co.uk

Phone: 0800 458 1142 / 07368 829360

Website: www.stagenation.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn @stagenationuk

